

● Stakeholders Meetings

We encourage you to attend the electrical stakeholder meetings during the upcoming months. The department is again offering 4 Continuing Education Units credit (CEU's) for those who attend the meeting and successfully complete a take-home examination.

Stakeholder Meeting Schedule

Jan 18, 2001	Washington Mutual Bldg. Community Room 500 Pacific Avenue, Bremerton, WA.	6:30 PM-9:00 PM
Jan 31, 2001	Moore Branch Public Library 215 s. 56 TH Street, Tacoma WA.	6:30 PM-9:00 PM
Feb 15, 2001	City Council Chambers 321 E. 5 th Street, Port Angeles, WA.	6:30 PM-9:00 PM

● Opportunity For Gaining Credit For Previous Experience In Certain Specialties

A window of opportunity exists to qualify *previous work experience* for certain specialty electrical contractor's licenses, administrator and specialty electrical technician certificates. WAC 296-46A and 296-401B revisions are expected to be adopted January 18, 2001. The revisions are part of the department's efforts to replace existing electrical policies and practices with specific WAC regulations consistent the electrical installations law (RCW 19.28). The specialties where *previous work experience* may be allowed are:

- Domestic well specialty electrical technician (03A)
 - Non-residential lighting maintenance and lighting retrofit (07A)
 - Non-residential maintenance (07)
 - Door, window, gate, and similar systems (10)*
 - HVAC/refrigeration limited energy technician (06A)
 - Limited energy (06) Stand alone amplified sound (residential only)
 - Residential maintenance (07B)*
- * New

How can I qualify to take a technician exam? For applications received prior to December 31, 2001, persons may be eligible to take the appropriate technician specialty examination. To qualify, an applicant must show at least two years (4000 approved work hours per WAC 296-401B-450). *Previous work experience* may be allowed if the applicant submits a signed and notarized letter from their employer(s) stating they have "performed electrical installation, service or repair in the appropriate specialty. The employer must have been engaged full-time in the business of the appropriate specialty during the period of time to be certified. Employers must establish the appropriate business status by supplying the department with copies of their RCW 18.27 contractor's registration or business license.

Individuals will be permitted to take the technician specialty examination after submitting a qualifying application and paying the appropriate examination fees. Specialty electrical technician certificates will be issued after successful completion of the examination. All individuals who submit qualifying applications prior to December 31, 2001 will remain qualified to take the exam after that date, but may not work unsupervised after June 30, 2002 (see "How can I continue..." question below).

Previous work experience will not be allowed for work performed after: September 30, 2000 (for HVAC/refrigeration) or June 30, 2001 (for other specialties). After these dates work experience will only be allowed for electrical trainees working under the direct supervision of an appropriate specialty technician, specialty electrician or a journeyman electrician.

How can I continue to work while I prepare for the certification exam? Applicants meeting the two-year experience requirements will be issued a special third year training certificate; and until June 30, 2002 considered a technician for the purpose of working within the scope of the specialty without supervision and supervising first and second year trainees on the job site. After June 30, 2002 the individual must have successfully passed the certificate examination to work without supervision or to supervise trainees.

Will I be able to do work included in these open specialties without certification? No! Labor and Industries' compliance officers and electrical inspectors will ensure that each contractor or person doing electrical work has a proper electrical contractor license and/or journeyman, specialty or trainee certificate per WAC 296-401B sections 100, 110, 300, and 500. The maximum ratio of journeyman to trainees on a job-site, for all specialties, is 1:2.

HVAC/R, 1st year trainees may install HVAC/R thermostat cable unsupervised when the HVAC/R system consists of: a single thermostat in one- and two-family dwelling units and where line voltage power has not been connected to the system. HVAC/refrigeration 2nd year trainees may work unsupervised when installing thermostats or making thermostat cable connections in one- and two-family dwelling units.

Effective January 19, 2001 electrical inspectors will not immediately issue citations to those found not to be in compliance with current rules. Individuals and firms will be issued a written warning on the first offense. The written warning allows offenders 10 working days to make proper application in the appropriate specialty. If proper application has not been received by the department in the time allowed, a citation will be issued. There is no warning period for repeat offenders. After September 30, 2000 (for HVAC/refrigeration) or June 30, 2001 (for other specialties), firms and individuals who fail to obtain the proper license or certification within the 10 day warning period will forfeit their opportunity to apply for *previous work experience*.

Are there any additional requirements once I have obtained certification? In order to renew a technician certificate, the holder must demonstrate evidence of completion of an approved continuing education course(s) of at least eight classroom hours duration per year of the prior certification period. At least eight of those total hours shall be in a continuing education course approved on National Electrical Code (current version) changes. Currently the certification period is three years (36 months), so 24 hours of continuing education units are required for renewal.

● **Code Question of the Month**

This month's Code Question: What is the permissible voltage drop allowed on feeders and branch circuits? A. 3%; B. 5%; C. 2%; D. (Not a code requirement only a Fine Print Note)

Last month's Question: In a hospital facility where both the normal and essential branch circuit panelboards serve the same individual patient vicinity, what is the minimum size of the conductor that is required to bond the two panels together?

Answer: NEC 517-14 requires a minimum #10 insulated, copper conductor.